



## Loudoun County, Virginia

[www.loudoun.gov](http://www.loudoun.gov)

### News Release

---

Office of Public Information

1 Harrison Street, SE, P.O. Box 7000, Leesburg, VA 20177-7000

703/777-0113 • Fax 703/771-5841

For Immediate Release

July 29, 2004

Contact: Nancy McCormick

703-737-8856

### **Loudoun County is "Listening to Youth"**

The Loudoun Youth Initiative has kicked off its "Listening to Youth" outreach effort, which will involve meetings with hundreds of middle and high school students over the next few months to hear the challenges they face.

The goal of the Loudoun Youth Initiative is to assess the needs of young people in the county and develop a plan of services and programs to meet those needs. "We want to get the community listening and aware of issues facing our youth," said Advisory Commission on Youth Chairman Carol Kost at a news conference Thursday to officially launch the outreach effort.

"We want to be proactive," said Dulles District Supervisor Steve Snow, one of several speakers at the news conference. "We have about 300 young people signed up over this summer to meet in small group sessions to tell us what they think about Loudoun County."

In September, listening sessions will be held with high school students, followed by a large scale youth symposium planned for October. "We envision that an action plan will evolve from that symposium and be presented to the Board of Supervisors," Snow said.

The Loudoun Youth Initiative is a community wide effort and representatives of the many partners in the program attended Thursday's news conference. They included Tim Chestnutt of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services; Wendall Fisher of the YMCA; Doug Holmes of Loudoun County Public Schools; Rich D'Amato of AOL, which has volunteered its facilities for the fall symposium; Leesburg Supervisor Jim Clem and Sterling Supervisor Eugene Delgaudio.

Earlier this summer, the Advisory Commission on Youth, along with the Board of Supervisors and the Loudoun Public Schools, held a community forum on youth with more than 80 community leaders. That report, as well as more information about the Loudoun Youth Initiative, is available on the Loudoun County Government Website at <http://www.loudoun.gov/youth>.

###